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*Canada on the UN Security Council 1989-90*

**Documents  
and  
Statements**











## Canada on the UN Security Council 1989-90

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Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0G2

February, 1990

Dear Readers:

Over the past year, we have been pleased to provide interested individuals and organizations with periodic summaries of Canada's activities as a non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. The enclosed summary serves as an update on Council developments since our last report was prepared in August. As you can see, the period September-January was extremely busy, with the Security Council called upon to deal with a wide range of challenging issues.

The United Nation's role in Namibian independence must be seen as one of its greatest achievements. The quality of the Namibian election - a source of much anxiety - exceeded the hopes and expectations of all parties to that historic event. In Central America, the year's end brought continued hope that the regional peace process and the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces could withstand both renewed violence in El Salvador and suspension of the Nicaraguan ceasefire. And, despite the U.N.'s best efforts, resolution of conflict in Cambodia and the Lebanon remains frustratingly elusive.

Canada served as President of the Security Council through the month of October. I believe that we can all be proud of the critical role played during that month by our delegation in New York and by Ambassador Yves Fortier. At a time when contentious issues threatened to hamstring the work of the Council, Ambassador Fortier succeeded in promoting and maintaining an open, positive spirit that was still being felt at year's end.

Those familiar with the inner workings of the Security Council appreciate the relentless, painstaking, behind-the-scenes work that underlies the visible accomplishments. Formal meetings of the Council - which often deal with seemingly complex issues

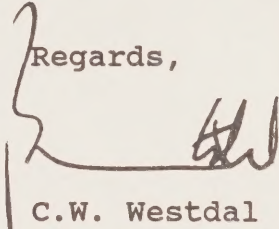
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in a matter of minutes - are preceded by hours and even days of informal meetings and bilateral consultations undertaken with the authority of the Council President. Canada's month on the Council was one of vigorous consultation; many of our initiatives bore fruit only in November and December.

Looking ahead to the next twelve months, we can assure you that Canada will continue to play a vigorous Security Council role. Building on our already solid reputation as a trustworthy conciliator, we hope to contribute to a strengthening of the United Nations in a period of dramatic global change.

Regards,



C.W. Westdal  
Director General  
International Organizations  
Bureau



## CANADA ON THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL: 1989-90

SEPTEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990

### INTRODUCTION

At the time of writing, Canada has passed the mid-way point of its two-year term as a non-permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. The past year has been a busy one for Council members, and has brought both successes and frustrations. Elation over the U.N.'s highly effective role in promoting Namibian independence was tempered by the failure to achieve immediate movement towards a long-awaited settlement to the Cambodian crisis. While the U.N.-sponsored truce in the Iran-Iraq war has held, a formal end of the conflict is still not at hand. In Central America, the role of the United Nations in the regional peace plan was reaffirmed and UN peacekeepers were deployed despite the intensification of the civil war in El Salvador.

None of this should in any way minimize the important work of the Council in seeking to resolve the many complex peace and security issues before it. Council members themselves reflect the diverse opinions and attitudes to be found among the U.N. member states. Not surprisingly, bilateral and informal consultations are extensive. While such exhaustive (and exhausting) behind-the-scenes work is largely beyond the eyes of the press and public, it is critical to the more visible activity and action around the Council table.

As you will see in the pages that follow, we have continued over the past four months to use our influence to foster and maintain a pragmatic mood of co-operation among Council members. This, coupled with the general improvement in global political relations, has resulted in a constructive and conciliatory Council.

Our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Yves Fortier, and the Canadian delegation have worked with active headquarters' support to promote a positive climate in both the Security Council and the General Assembly. What follows is an overview of key issues confronting the Council over the past few months.



## NAMIBIA

Ambassador Fortier visited Namibia in mid-September as part of his preparations for Canada assuming the Council Presidency in October. On September 28, the Secretary-General informed the Council of his decision (on the recommendation of his Special Representative in Namibia) to increase the number of UNTAG civilian police by an additional 500, to a total a 1,500. This was the second increase of the UNTAG police contingent since the adoption of UNSCR 632 at the beginning of the year. Noting the critical role being played by the civilian police in assuring conditions for free and fair Namibian elections, the Canadian government agreed to provide 100 RCMP officers for a six month period. The response from the RCMP was immediate, with its men and women arriving in Namibia less than three weeks after receiving the formal request from the Secretary-General. The Mounties make up the second-largest national police contingent in UNTAG. They have been deployed throughout the country, particularly in the north, where they are actively engaged in supervising and monitoring the local police force and liaising with local communities as to their security concerns.

On October 17, the Secretary-General sent a letter to the Security Council advising it of his decision to increase the number of UN electoral supervisors by 353, to a total of 1,395. Canada provided 50 such supervisors, drawn from the senior ranks of federal, provincial and territorial elections offices. On very short notice, the RCMP were also able to locate and dispatch 10 fingerprint experts (drawn from the ranks of retired officers) to assist in verification of tendered ballots.

During the month of October, the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Fortier, was involved in intensive debates on the implementation of the Settlement Plan. Once again, concern was focused on ongoing efforts to secure the full disbandment and demobilization of such South African security forces as Koevoet and two former South-West Africa Territorial Forces (SWATF) units, known as "bushmen battalions".

A draft resolution presented by the African and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) members of the Council was criticized by others as one-sided in its censure of South Africa as the only party not abiding by the terms of the Plan and for appearing to favour the cause of SWAPO, just one of ten parties contesting the election. The proposed resolution also included provisions for the application of sanctions and the sending of a special Security Council team to Namibia. After a lengthy and heated debate that threatened to divide the Council on the eve of the Namibian elections, an amended resolution was negotiated under the chairmanship of Ambassador Fortier.



UNSCR 643, adopted unanimously by the Council one week prior to the Namibian elections, demanded immediate, full and strict compliance by all parties concerned, and particularly by South Africa, with the terms of Security Council resolutions 435, 632 and 640. It also called for the complete disbandment of all remaining paramilitary and ethnic forces and commando units, particularly Koevoet and SWATF. As well, UNSCR 643 demanded the immediate repeal of those remaining restrictive and discriminatory laws and regulations that would inhibit the holding of free and fair elections.

In his report to Council on November 3, the Secretary-General informed the members that the formal disbandment and demobilization of Koevoet had been completed on October 28 and 30, under the strict supervision of UNTAG. He also reported that the two "bushmen battalions" had long since had their weapons withdrawn and were now demobilized. On that same day, the Council met in urgent session and issued a statement deploring the allegations made by South Africa concerning the alleged movement of SWAPO forces across the Namibian/Angolan border. The South African Foreign Minister, Pik Botha, subsequently retracted his country's allegations.

The long-awaited Namibian elections took place November 7 to 11 under UNTAG supervision. The Security Council met November 14 to hear a report from the Secretary-General on the conduct of the Namibian vote. In an accompanying written report to the Council, the Secretary-General noted both that the elections had proceeded in a peaceful and orderly fashion and that the 97.04 per cent turnout of registered voters was an impressive demonstration of the importance Namibians themselves attached to the electoral process. He informed the Council that "the Special Representative in Namibia, after full scrutiny of the related procedures,...certified that the electoral process in Namibia had, at every stage, been free and fair and that it had been conducted to his satisfaction."

Following consultations with Council members, the President of the Security Council issued a statement on November 20, welcoming "with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the elections in Namibia, certified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General as free and fair, thus paving the way for the convening of the Constituent Assembly and the early independence of Namibia at a date to be determined by the Constituent Assembly." The statement also noted "the continuing important role of the United Nations in the transition period in ensuring the implementation of the Settlement Plan, so that the Constituent Assembly, reflecting the collective will of the people, can draw up and adopt, in accordance with the Settlement Plan and free from any interference, a Constitution that will accord sovereignty to Namibia."



### SOUTH AFRICA - 421 COMMITTEE

Canada is currently a member of the "421 Committee", which is composed of all Security Council members. Established in 1977, the Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa enacted under UNSCR 418. It is further mandated to study ways by which the embargo can be made more effective and to seek further information from all U.N. member states regarding their implementation of Resolution 418.

Canada has sought to reinvigorate the work of the Committee. With our encouragement, the Chairman of the Committee organized private hearings on the arms embargo on September 14 and 27. The Right Honourable Joe Clark made a presentation to the Committee on September 27th in which he asked it to consider recommending the adoption of proposals to strengthen the embargo put forward by the Committee of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at that group's February 8 meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe. Canada also actively encouraged the publication of a report on the work of the Committee which was adopted unanimously on December 11, 1989.

### CYPRUS

The United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was established by the Security Council in March, 1964 to act as a buffer between warring Greek- and Turkish-Cypriots. UNFICYP's original three-month mandate has been successively renewed for the past quarter century. While undoubtedly an effective peacekeeping force, its very success in this regard has unfortunately lessened the urgency of a diplomatic settlement of the sectarian conflict.

Canada has a particularly strong interest in seeing a resolution of the Cypriot situation. Our military personnel have served as UNFICYP peacekeepers since the force's inception; one in four of its 2,200 soldiers are Canadians. UNFICYP is also unique in being the only United Nations peacekeeping force to be financed from voluntary contributions from U.N. member states. A persistent shortfall in such contributions has left UNFICYP with an accumulated debt of \$175-million. The nations participating in UNFICYP - Canada included - have had to bear a disproportionately large percentage of the cost of providing peacekeepers.

On October 20, the Secretary-General launched an appeal to all U.N. member states for additional financial support of UNFICYP. It was noted that the cost to Canada of providing its contingent amounted to \$10.7-million (U.S.) for the last six months of 1989 alone.



The Secretary-General released a major report on UNFICYP on December 7, detailing both the recent evolution of political efforts to end the stalemate and detailing the difficult financial status of the peacekeeping operation. The document was remarkable for its direct language, stating that "it is not fair that the troop-contributing governments should have to bear so large a share of UNFICYP's cost." The Secretary-General went on to state that "it remains my view that the best way to finance UNFICYP on a more equitable basis would be for the United Nations' share of the costs of the Force to be financed from assessed contributions."

The report received a highly positive reaction, especially among troop-contributing countries on the Security Council: Canada, Finland and the United Kingdom. Those three delegations took a lead role in drafting a Council Presidential statement issued on December 14. It echoed the Secretary-General's concern that a quarter century had passed with no resolution of the Cyprus problem, stating that "a basis for effective negotiations exists provided both leaders (i.e. Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot) manifest the necessary goodwill and recognize that a viable solution must satisfy the legitimate interests of both communities."

Persistent Canadian efforts to have the Security Council address UNFICYP's financing were rewarded in both word and deed by Council members. The Presidential statement acknowledged both UNFICYP's funding woes and the Secretary-General's "appeal for greater financial contributions to UNFICYP which would help it continue its important peacekeeping role in Cyprus and would reduce its financial difficulties." As part of the Council's deliberations, France announced that it would voluntarily contribute one million francs to the UNFICYP fund - its first ever such contribution. These important breakthroughs were yet another example of the success of quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy in effecting progress without causing harmful divisions among Council members.

The December 14 statement also asked the Secretary-General to report back to the Council by March 1, 1990 as to progress in resuming intensive peace talks and developing an agreed outline to an overall settlement. Later that same day, Council members voted to extend UNFICYP's mandate a further six months, to June 15, 1990.



## THE MIDDLE EAST

### Lebanon

In September, the Secretary-General briefed Security Council members on discussions he had held with representatives of the Arab League attending the Belgrade Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. As well, he reported on the results of a visit to Lebanon by his Special Representative. Following consultations with Council members, the President on September 20 issued a statement again calling for an immediate, comprehensive ceasefire and expressing the Council's "full support to the Tripartite High Committee in its action to put into effect a plan for the settlement of the Lebanese crisis in all its aspects by guaranteeing the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon." Prior to the adoption of the Taif accord by the various Lebanese factions, the Council issued four further statements, each of which sought to encourage progress towards a peaceful solution of this conflict.

On October 31, the five permanent Security Council members - the United States, Soviet Union, France, United Kingdom and China - issued a statement on the Lebanese situation without referring it to the other 10 non-permanent members. During informal consultations, Canada stressed that all Council members should have been consulted and given the opportunity to associate themselves with the statement. As a result, a formal Council statement was issued November 7, welcoming the election of Lebanese President Moawad and urging all parties to rally around him. Moawad's official letter of thanks reached Council members November 22, the day of his tragic assassination. At an urgently-called meeting, the Council that same day issued a condemnation of the murder as "an attack upon the unity of Lebanon, the democratic processes and the process of national reconciliation."

### Occupied Territories

In early November, the Council met once again to debate the on-going uprising, or Intifadah, in the occupied territories. The extended curfew and drastic measures used by Israeli authorities to collect taxes from the West Bank village of Beit Sahur served to heighten concern. The Palestine Liberation Organization's supporters on the Security Council tabled a draft resolution very similar in tone and content to another put forward in June. In explaining its decision to veto the resolution, the American delegation stated that while its government was very concerned with the situation in the occupied territories, it found the resolution ill-timed and unhelpful to efforts under way to bring peace to the Middle East. For its



part, Canada expressed its continuing deep concern over the situation and Israeli use of arbitrary measures to attempt to control the Intifadah. We voted in favour of the resolution, as we had its predecessors.

As required by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General must report annually to that body on the possibility of convening an international Middle East peace conference. In preparation for his report, the Secretary-General requested the views of Security Council members. Co-ordination of Council views was undertaken by Canada during its Presidency in October. After lengthy negotiations and consultations, a response was issued on November 7 and incorporated into the Secretary-General's November 16 report to the General Assembly.

On November 29, the Council adopted UNSCR 645, extending the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for a further six months, to May 31, 1990. Canada contributes several hundred troops to this peacekeeping mission stationed in the Golan Heights between Syria and Israel.

### Iran-Iraq

In 1988, the Security Council established the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) to oversee the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries. The mandate of this military observer group (which includes Canadian soldiers) was renewed by the Council in February and again on September 29 for a further six month term.

During Canada's October presidency, detailed consultations took place in an informal Council meeting following a briefing by the Secretary-General on the upcoming "shuttle" mission to Baghdad and Tehran by his Special Representative. Following this informal meeting, Ambassador Fortier, with the Secretary-General at his side, read a Council statement to the media expressing "profound concern" at the lack of tangible progress being made by Iran and Iraq to implement UNSCR 598 (which had cemented the Gulf War ceasefire).

### CENTRAL AMERICA

The Security Council on July 27 unanimously adopted UNSCR 637 supporting the peace process in Central America. On August 7, the five Central American Presidents signed the Esquipulus II peace plan. As part of the plan, an international commission to monitor the disbandment and relocation of the Nicaraguan "Contras" was to be set up under the joint auspices of the Organization of American States and the U.N. The Secretaries-General of the two bodies agreed to establish an International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) on



September 6.

On October 11, the Secretary-General released to the Security Council his report on the results of a U.N. technical reconnaissance mission sent to the region in mid-September. In that report, he asked the Security Council to invite a number of countries - including Canada - to take part in a United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). The mandate of this unarmed military/civilian force would be:

1. to monitor on a regular basis areas reported to harbour bases and camps of irregular forces and insurrectionist movements;
2. to monitor on a regular basis land, sea and air borders across which military operations or assistance might be carried out; and
3. to investigate immediately any complaint received from one of the five Central American governments of any non-humanitarian aid provided to any irregular forces or insurrectionist movement.

ONUCA was to consist of 260 military observers, a 115-person air unit, a naval unit of about 50 persons and a medical unit of up to 14 people. As well, some 104 U.N. staff and 82 locally-recruited civilians would carry out political and administrative functions. Deployment would occur over four phases. Canada agreed to consider the request to participate in ONUCA, providing that agreement was reached on effective operating rules, a limited duration and appropriate financing.

During the month of October, Canada, as President of the Security Council, drafted the enabling resolution for ONUCA following intensive discussions with other Council members and the Secretary-General's office. Such action succeeded in avoiding raising issues that might have caused Council divisions and a delay to the approval of ONUCA.

Canada's efforts came to fruition on November 7, when the Security Council unanimously adopted UNSCR 644, approving ONUCA's formation. An accompanying statement by November's President, China, underscored the Council's "full support for the Secretary-General's efforts to assist the Central American governments" in their quest for peace. It also emphasized that when the time came to renew ONUCA's six-month mandate, Council members would "wish to assure themselves that the presence of the observer group is continuing to contribute actively to the achievement of a firm and lasting peace in Central America." The Secretary-General himself took the opportunity to state that ONUCA's "establishment in itself constitutes a confidence-building measure which can contribute to...stability in the region."



Such confidence as existed was severely shaken by events on the ground in Central America. On October 28, Nicaragua announced that it was suspending its 19-month ceasefire with the "contra" resistance movement until it was assured that those forces would be demobilized before the scheduled February 25, 1990 national elections. Then, during the second week of November, the FMLN insurrectionist forces broke off negotiations with the El Salvadoran government. Within days, on November 11, they had launched a nationwide military offensive centred on the capital, San Salvador.

A meeting of the Security Council was convened on November 30 at the request of the Salvadoran government to "consider actions by the Nicaraguan government which constitute breaches of the regional agreements concluded by the Central American presidents." Nicaragua submitted its own draft resolution, calling inter alia for an immediate ceasefire in El Salvador and welcoming the forthcoming deployment of ONUCA. While El Salvador, Nicaragua and the United States all spoke to the issue, no resolution was agreed upon.

In a note to the Secretary-General on November 30, Canada agreed to participate in ONUCA and to provide 32 military officers and a self-sufficient air unit of eight light observation helicopters. A Canadian Brigadier-General was appointed ONUCA's second-in-command. On December 3, an ONUCA advance party - including seven Canadians - was deployed to the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa. In mid-January, more Canadian officers were deployed, and ONUCA observers took up positions in each of the five Central American capitals and in some border areas.

On December 8, the Security Council issued a statement (to which Canada had contributed compromise language) expressing "grave concern over the present situation in Central America, in particular over the numerous acts of violence resulting in loss of lives and sufferings of the civilian population." Noting that the five Central American presidents were to meet in San Jose, Costa Rica on December 10-12, the Council urged "all those states, including those with links with the region and interests in it, to refrain from all actions that could impede the achievement of a real and lasting settlement in Central America through negotiations."

At the conclusion of the San Jose meeting, the five presidents on December 12 issued the "Coronado Declaration" reaffirming their commitment to the peace process as laid out in the Esquipulus II accords. Attacking the "use of force and terror to achieve political ends and objectives", the declaration called for a cessation of hostilities by the FMLN in El Salvador and for their demobilization under the supervision of CIAV. It



also supported the Nicaraguan government by calling for funds earmarked for the Contras to be diverted to CIAV to support voluntary demobilization and repatriation. At the same time, the five presidents urged an accelerated deployment of ONUCA forces to halt arms supplies from reaching both insurrectionist groups, and requested a broadening of ONUCA's mandate to include verification of the cessation of hostilities and demobilization. (Any expansion of ONUCA's mandate would, of course, require Security Council approval.) Finally, the Coronado Declaration asked that the Secretary-General set up a liaison mechanism to involve those countries with interests in the Central American region in the peace process.

1989 also saw the establishment of a third United Nations mission to Central America - the United Nations Observation Mission for the Verification of the Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN). In the 'Tesoro Beach Accord' of February 14, the five Central American presidents agreed to develop a plan for the demobilization and voluntary repatriation of the Contra forces in concert with a Nicaraguan undertaking to hold free and democratic national elections on February 25, 1990. It was also agreed that the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States would be asked to send international observers to verify the electoral process.

Having received a formal Nicaraguan request in early March, the Secretary-General dispatched several preliminary missions to Nicaragua to assess the situation and consult the Sandinista government. On July 7, the Security Council was informed of his decision to proceed to establish ONUVEN. The mission's mandate included verifying:

1. that political parties were equitably represented in the Supreme Electoral Council and its subsidiary bodies (nine regional electoral councils and 4,100 electoral boards);
2. that political parties enjoyed complete freedom of organization and mobilization, without hindrance or intimidation;
3. that all political parties had equitable access to State television and radio; and
4. that electoral rolls were properly drawn up.

ONUVEN was also charged with drawing any complaints or irregularities to the attention of the Nicaraguan Supreme Electoral Council, to request information on remedial action and to submit regular reports to the Secretary-General.



Meanwhile, on June 28, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced that Canada would provide technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Council in organizing for the 1990 Nicaraguan elections. A technical mission undertaken by Elections Canada resulted in the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark announcing on September 28 that Canada would contribute approximately \$700,000 in materials and technical assistance to the Nicaraguan electoral authorities.

ONUVEN issued its first report in mid-October and a second report in early December. Both reports were generally positive about the structure and process of the election (especially the achievement of voter registration), but the second report highlighted concerns which may become more serious as the election proceeds. This includes an increase in election-related violence, campaigns to discredit the electoral process itself, and the use of state-owned mass media and other government property by the Sandinista party.

The second wave of ONUVEN observers was deployed in early December to coincide with the official launch of the Nicaragua national election campaign. Canada had expressed its willingness to contribute personnel to act as ONUVEN electoral observers and, on December 20, the Secretary-General formally requested that Canada provide five poll watchers for the final phase of the ONUVEN mission which will take place February 21 to 26.

#### PANAMA

In the early morning hours of December 20, the United States launched a military invasion of Panama. The stated aims of the U.S. action were to safeguard American lives, restore democratic government, defend the integrity of the Panama Canal treaties, and remove General Manuel Noriega from power in order to face drug charges in the United States.

On the same day, the Security Council met at the request of the Nicaraguan delegation to consider the situation. It soon became clear that there were two main issues. The first and more important issue was determining the position which the Security Council should adopt towards the invasion itself. The second point was the determination of which delegate should represent Panama at the Security Council debate - the nominee of the new government headed by Guillermo Endara, the 1989 president-elect, or a representative put forward by the Noriega regime.



The latter decision was complicated by the fact that the position had been vacant for some time and the requests for accreditation for both candidates were submitted within hours of each other on December 20. The issue was finally resolved on December 23, when the requests for participation in an official capacity were dropped and both nominees attended the Council meeting as observers with an interest in the proceedings, not as official representatives of the Panamanian government.

Regarding the Security Council position on the U.S. intervention, a draft resolution was submitted by NAM Security Council members which drew on Article 2 of the U.N. Charter (that Members should abstain from the threat of or use of force in their international conduct) and deplored the U.S. intervention as a "flagrant violation of international law", and demanded the immediate withdrawal of U.S. armed forces.

The United States delegation defended its action by citing Article 51 of the UN Charter, the right of self-defence, and pointing out that Noriega regime had declared itself to be in a "state of war" with the United States and had acted on that by killing an unarmed American soldier. The U.S. also noted that the Panama Canal treaty specifically gave the United States the right to protect the Panama Canal and that, under Article 52 of the U.N. Charter, the issue should first be considered by the regional body, in this case the Organization of the American States.

In a December 20 statement to the Council, Ambassador Fortier acknowledged that "intervention by force by a member of the United Nations in the internal affairs of any state is against both the letter and spirit of the U.N. charter. My government regrets the use of force by the U.S.A. in Panama", and noted that "intervention by force is a dangerous precedent...." However, Canada also drew attention to Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and stated that it was necessary to "examine all the circumstances to determine whether or not it (the U.S.A.) had compelling reasons." Canada concluded that "such compelling reasons did exist", that force had been a "last resort" and that Panama could "now look forward to the consolidation of democracy and to a peaceful and stable future...."

The draft resolution was put to a vote December 23. The resolution received 10 votes in favour (Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia, Brazil, U.S.S.R., and China), 1 abstention (Finland), and 4 against (Canada, France, United Kingdom, and United States). The resolution was not adopted since three permanent members of the Security Council voted against it.



After the Security Council veto, a similar resolution was brought to the United Nations General Assembly, where it was passed December 28 with the following vote: 75 for - 40 abstentions - 20 against (including Canada) - 24 not present.

On January 3, 1990, the Nicaraguan delegation requested a meeting of the Security Council to discuss the forcible entry of American soldiers into the Official Residence of the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Panama. According to the Nicaraguan delegation, on December 29 U.S. soldiers entered the residence without permission, despite being shown diplomatic identification, proceeded to search the Residence, and took away some of the Ambassador's possessions. The U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations submitted a letter on January 4 which expressed regret for the incident, and stated that a mistake had been made by its armed forces and that all goods had been returned once the troops had been informed that the house was in fact the Official Residence of the Nicaraguan Ambassador.

A draft resolution closely resembling a resolution passed by the Organization of American States on January 8 was circulated. (Canada had voted for the resolution in that forum.) The Security Council resolution acknowledged the American apology and explanation, but declared that the events were nevertheless a violation of international law and reaffirmed the need to comply with the rules of international law that guarantee diplomatic immunity. The resolution was put to a vote on January 17 with the following result: 13 for (including Canada) - 1 abstention (United Kingdom) - 1 against (United States). The resolution was not adopted as the result of a permanent member's veto.

In voting for the resolution, Canada's representative stated that "we must take into account that the Government of the United States has acknowledged that the forcible entry of its troops...was an error and has expressed its regrets....however we supported this resolution because it reaffirms certain basic and important principles guiding the conduct of international relations."

#### ROMANIA

In December, the brutal killing and repression of peaceful protestors by then President Ceausescu's Securitate forces caught the attention of the world. What began as a simple protest soon escalated into a "popular revolution" when the Romanian Army joined the people in deposing the Ceausescu government. Canada supported a proposal to have the Council meet to discuss the serious situation in Romania. However, certain members were strongly opposed as they maintained that it was



purely an internal matter and therefore not within the mandate of the Council. We maintained ,however, that the discovery of mass graves in Timisoara and continued killings could enflame ethnic loyalties and possibly provoke interventions by neighbouring states, threatening regional peace and security. Council members subsequently met informally on a number of occasions to discuss the situation, and on December 23 the President of the Council announced that the situation in Romania would be discussed by the Council on December 26. However, by that Tuesday morning the Romanian Army appeared to be in control and, as there no longer appeared to be any potential threat to regional peace and security, it was decided that such a meeting was no longer necessary.

#### TERRORISM AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

In early September, the British delegation initiated a proposal for the Security Council to consider threats to international peace and security caused by the illicit drug trade. The intent was to have the Council urge states to give fullest possible political and material support to the fight against drug traffickers. While the proposal enjoyed initial widespread support among Council members, the counter-notion of a special session of the General Assembly to deal with the drug issue was advanced by non-Council members. Ambassador Fortier, as Council President for October, urged the U.K. to withdraw its proposal on the understanding that the issue would be revisited at a later date. It would seem that the seeds for future action have been planted.



## Canada on the UN Security Council 1989-90



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Dear Reader,

The current package of notes and documents on the Security Council covers the first half of 1990. A final package will be assembled in January 1991 and will cover the last six months of Canada's mandate as a member of the Council. However, because of the momentous events following the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, we have included a special summary of activities at the Security Council.

The first half of 1990 was a very active period on the Security Council, as its past successes, including Namibia, led to increased expectations of its role as a catalyst in resolving regional disputes and in carrying out free and fair expressions of self-determination.

The Council monitored the final stages of Namibia's transition to independence, and unanimously supported its applications to become the 160th member of the United Nations.

The Security Council applied many of the lessons learnt in Namibia to its successful observation of the elections in Nicaragua. In February, the U.N. Observation Mission (ONUVEN) cooperated with the OAS to bring about free and fair elections in Nicaragua. Shortly afterwards, the Council gave the UN Observer Group for Central America (ONUCA) an expanded mandate to supervise the repatriation and demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance.

Advance plans were also underway for a U.N. supervised referendum in Western Sahara, subject to a negotiated settlement between Morocco and the POLISARIO.

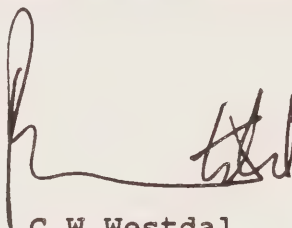
The Middle East remained a principal focus of the Council throughout the first half on 1990. It considered informally the problems associated with the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the Occupied Territories. It listened to and discussed PLO proposals for a resolution by the U.N. of the Arab-Israeli dispute, and it agreed to the dispatch of a special envoy by the Secretary General to the Occupied Territories to examine the situation and report back to the Council. It supported on-going efforts by the Secretary General to mediate in Lebanon and in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.



Happily, the Council was able to take the unusual step of dismantling a U.N. peacekeeping force. The Observer Group in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) was replaced by a smaller group of military advisers attached to the office of the Secretary General.

The peacekeeping operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was renewed for another six months and Canada, along with the other troop contributors, increased its pressure on the Council to agree to a change in its financial basis from voluntary to assessed contributions.

Further details and documents on the activities of the Council are enclosed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C.W. Westdal', written over a horizontal line.

C.W. Westdal  
Director General  
International Organizations Bureau



## THE GULF CRISIS

On August 2, 1990, Iraqi military forces crossed the border into neighbouring Kuwait, in a unilateral and unprovoked invasion, and quickly gained control of that country.

The immediate and unanimous response by the Security Council and the overwhelming support shown by the Member States of the United Nations represented a landmark of cooperation for the organization. For the first time in history, countries from East and West, North and South formed a common front to send a clear and direct message to a violator of the UN's Charter. Despite the seriousness of the situation which gave rise to such solidarity, this united response holds great hope for future effective collective action through the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.

The Security Council worked ceaselessly from the beginning in an attempt to achieve a peaceful settlement of this threat to international peace and security. While encouraging all possible bilateral diplomatic efforts, it issued a series of tough resolutions which have been implemented by the overwhelming majority of the Member States of the United Nations. In all, the package of sanctions imposed against Iraq as a consequence of its actions are the most rigorous ever applied against a UN Member State.

Throughout the crisis, Canada has played a lead role on the Security Council, co-sponsoring all but one of the resolutions, and frequently proposing the language required to form a consensus.

On the same day as the Iraqi invasion, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 660, condemning the invasion and demanding an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

By August 6, it had become clear that Iraq was not complying with the Security Council call to withdraw, and on that date, by an overwhelming majority (only Yemen and Cuba abstained), the Council voted to impose the most comprehensive set of economic sanctions ever before declared by the Council.

This same resolution also set up a new Security Council committee to gather information, provide advice, and monitor the implementation of sanctions. Canada became one of the two Vice-Chairs of this new committee.

On August 9, in reaction to the Iraq's declared annexation of Kuwait, the Security Council proclaimed resolution 662 which declared that act null and void. During these first few weeks it seemed quite possible that Iraq would continue pushing militarily into Saudi Arabia.

A little over a week later, it became apparent that hundreds of thousands of third country nationals, especially

Asians, were in jeopardy as a result of Iraq's actions. Following the attempted closing of foreign missions in Kuwait, Resolution 664 was passed unanimously, demanding that Iraq allow safe passage to third country nationals and that they rescind the closing orders.

In early September, Canada dispatched three naval vessels (one supply ship and two destroyer escorts) to the area as part of a multinational military presence. Security Council resolution 665, which called on Member States deploying maritime forces to use such measures as may be necessary to halt all maritime shipping and ensure compliance with resolution 661, was a visible expression of Canada's national commitment to uphold the charter of the United Nations and to support Security Council decisions. Canada later sent a squadron of CF-18s to provide air cover for the Canadian ships as they began monitoring operations in the Persian Gulf.

Canada requested that the Secretary General co-ordinate humanitarian assistance to the many thousands of displaced persons fleeing Iraq and Kuwait. The Secretary General responded quickly by naming Saddrudin Aga Khan as UN Co-ordinator with a broad mandate to co-ordinate aid to vulnerable populations.

By mid-September, the position of third country nationals had become acute in Iraq, with food allotments being withheld as part of the Iraqi rationing system. Iraq's clear intention to use food as a weapon against a vulnerable civilian population provoked Security Council resolution 666, which established a framework to allow foodstuffs to Iran and Kuwait for humanitarian purposes.

Canada was a lead contributor to the formulation and passage of this resolution. The framework set out in resolution 666, which allowed for the provision of foodstuffs under the supervision of recognized humanitarian agencies, was modelled on a Canadian proposal first enunciated in the 661 committee.

Resolution 666 also assigned more responsibility to the Committee established by resolution 661, of which Canada is vice-Chair, to oversee the provision of humanitarian assistance.

On September 16, in response to the illegal incursion by Iraqi troops into several diplomatic premises in Kuwait, including the Canadian Embassy, the Security Council unanimously issued resolution 667 condemning these actions.

Resolution 669, the following week, confirmed the role of the 661 Committee and asked this committee to examine requests for assistance from Member States wishing to consult the Security Council on sanctions implementation. Canada will chair the 661 Committee Working Group mandated to review applications to the Security Council from countries seeking solutions to economic difficulties encountered in applying sanctions against Iraq.



In a further tightening of sanctions, the Security Council voted, in resolution 670, to extend the embargo to include air traffic and to consider measures against those not complying with the sanctions. This meeting was an example of continued commitment to the united UN action since the Foreign Ministers of all Security Council members (except Cuba and Yemen) were present. Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, stated at this meeting:

"Mr. President, Canada views this body as the principal instrument of collective international action to ensure Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. We have taken important steps together, and are taking an additional step today. Let us leave no doubt that this body stands ready to take further steps if Iraq does not move quickly to do what it is being called upon time and time again to do."

## UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS - I R A Q / K U W A I T

### + UNSCR 660 - 2 August 1990 - Vote: 15-0-0\*

¶ Determined that a breach of international peace and security had taken place (ie. that it was a legitimate issue for the Security Council); condemned the Iraqi invasion; demanded its withdrawal from Kuwait; and called upon Iraq and Kuwait to negotiate.

### + UNSCR 661 - 6 August 1990 - Vote: 13-0-2 (Cuba, Yemen)

¶ Determined that Iraq had not complied with 660; affirmed the right of individual or collective self-defence; under UN Charter Chapter 7 called upon all states to impose strict economic sanctions on Iraq until it complied with 660 "but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs"; set up the '661 Committee' (all UNSC members) to gather/provide information and advice on sanctions.

### UNSCR 662 - 9 August 1990 - Vote: 15-0-0

¶ Decided that the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq is null and void and demanded that Iraq rescind its declaration of annexation.

### + UNSCR 664 - 18 August 1990 - Vote: 15-0-0

¶ Demanded that Iraq permit the immediate departure from Kuwait and Iraq of third-country nationals and that Iraq take no action to jeopardize the safety, security, or health of such nationals; demanded that Iraq rescind its orders for the closure of diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

### + UNSCR 665 - 25 August 1990 - Vote: 13-0-2 (Cuba, Yemen)

¶ Called upon states deploying maritime forces to use such measures as may be necessary to halt all maritime shipping in order to inspect cargo and ensure strict implementation of UNSCR 661; coordinate actions using "as appropriate" the Military Staff Committee.

### + UNSCR 666 - 13 September 1990 - Vote: 13-2 (Cuba, Yemen)-0

¶ Established a framework for determination of "humanitarian circumstances" and distribution of foodstuffs in Iraq and Kuwait as per UNSCR 661: 661 Committee must report and recommend; food should be provided



and the distribution supervised "through the UN in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross or other appropriate humanitarian agency".

+ UNSCR 667 - 16 September 1990 - Vote: 15-0-0

¶ Strongly condemned the Iraqi actions against diplomatic premises and personnel in Kuwait and demanded the immediate release of foreign nationals.

+ UNSCR 669 - 24 September 1990 - Vote: 15-0-0

¶ Entrusts the 661 Committee of the Council with the task of examining requests for assistance under the provisions of article 50 of the UN Charter. Under this article, states can consult the Council for a solution to economic problems arising from carrying out sanctions imposed by the Council.

+ UNSCR 670 - 25 September 1990 - Vote: 14-1 (Cuba)-0

¶ Extended maritime embargo to air traffic by "taking such measures as may be necessary, consistent with international law, including the Chicago Convention"; affirmed that UN specialized agencies must comply with sanctions; decided to consider measures against sanctions-busters; and reaffirmed that Iraq is liable under the Fourth Geneva Convention (war crimes).

\*Vote: Yes - No - Abstain

+ Co-sponsored by Canada

## AFRICA

### **NAMIBIA**

Namibia continued to be a major success story for the United Nations. Following the elections which took place in Namibia in November, the Constituent Assembly began their work to draft a constitution which would bring the country to independence. On February 9, 1990 the Secretary General informed the members of the Security Council that the Constituent Assembly of Namibia had approved, by consensus, the Constitution, which would enter into force on March 21, 1990. He also informed the Council that the Constitution reflected the "Principles for a Constituent Assembly and for a Constitution for an Independent Namibia" agreed to by all the parties concerned in 1982 (S/15827 July 12, 1982).

The Secretary General travelled to Namibia in March to attend the independence celebrations where he was joined by a large number of Heads of State and Foreign Ministers. Madame Landry, the Minister of State for External Relations represented Canada. Shortly after midnight, on March 21, 1990 the flag of the Republic of South Africa was lowered and the flag of the Republic of Namibia was raised, marking the formal accession of Namibia to independence. The Secretary General then administered the oath of office to Mr. Sam Nujoma, who had been elected to the office of President of the Republic of Namibia by the Constituent Assembly on February 16, 1990. (see S/21215 28 March 1990). In Canada, this historic event was noted in a speech to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Joe Clark. Events were held throughout Canada to celebrate Namibian independence and to honour those Canadians who participated in UNTAG.

With Namibia's independence the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) came to a successful conclusion. UNTAG personnel were withdrawn in orderly stages except for a small team responsible for finalizing the administrative arrangements.

In his final report on the implementation of UNSCR 435 the Secretary General expressed his thanks to past and present members of the Council, to all the parties to the Namibian settlement plan, the peace-keeping contributors and to his staff both in the field and at headquarters "for all that they so ably did to assist in the orderly transition of Namibia to independence".

In a letter dated April 6 addressed to the Secretary General the President of the Republic of Namibia submitted an application for admission to membership of the United Nations. The Secretary General referred the application to the Security Council on April 17 where it was considered by the Committee on the Admission of New Members. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, the Security Council adopted unanimously resolution 652



of 17 April 1990 recommending that the General Assembly admit the Republic of Namibia to membership in the United Nations. On April 23, 1990 the Republic of Namibia became the 160th member of the United Nations.

In his speech at the Security Council welcoming Namibia's forthcoming admission to the United Nations, Canada's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Yves Fortier noted that "As Namibia embarks upon the road of nationhood it will look to the continued support and goodwill of the international community to develop its economic and social infrastructure and to ensure that its citizens enjoy the rights and freedoms for which they struggled so valiantly". A United Nations Namibian Donor Conference was held in New York from June 21-22, 1990 at which approximately 200 million dollars was pledged by international donors.

## **WESTERN SAHARA**

The status of the former Spanish colony, known since 1976 as the Western Sahara, has been an ongoing source of dispute and conflict since the 1950's. The UN has for many years engaged in discussions with the two parties, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberacion de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), to seek a peaceful resolution to the question of Western Sahara. In 1988 the Security Council adopted a resolution calling for a UN-supervised referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Since that date the Secretary General and his Special Representative for the Western Sahara (currently Mr. Johannes Manz) have sought to obtain the agreement of the parties to this settlement plan.

The re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the governments of Morocco and Algeria (which support the POLISARIO) in 1988 provided a new impetus for negotiations on the resolution of the status of the Western Sahara. The Secretary General and his Special Representative visited the area twice during the past year, most recently in April of 1990. With a view to facilitating the work of the UN Identification Commission, which is responsible for identifying Saharans eligible to participate in the referendum, a group of senior United Nations officials met in Geneva from June 4-7 with 38 Saharan notables. On June 18, 1990 the Secretary General presented his report "On the Situation in Western Sahara" to the Security Council. The report outlines a proposed settlement plan for the Western Sahara of which the main elements would include:

1. A formal ceasefire between Morocco and the Polisario.
2. The reduction and withdrawal from Western Sahara of the Moroccan military prior to the referendum.
3. The confinement of both Moroccan and Polisario military forces.

4. The repatriation of Western Saharan refugees with the assistance of the UNHCR.
5. The release of all political prisoners.
6. Monitoring of local police by UN civilian police who will also be responsible for ensuring the security of all registration and polling stations.
7. While the Moroccan administration will remain in place, the UN will have authority to monitor their activities and to suspend any laws or regulations which it deems could impede the holding of a free and fair referendum.
8. The referendum is to be held 24 weeks after the cease-fire comes into effect.

During informal consultations with the President of the Council (France) Canada welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to seek a peaceful , negotiated settlement. We noted that as with all peace-keeping operations, the success of this initiative would ultimately depend upon securing a formal agreement between the parties to the conflict. On June 27 the Security Council adopted resolution 658, which approved the report of the Secretary-General on a settlement plan to resolve the question of Western Sahara and established a Technical Commission to provide further details on the implementation of the plan. Canada provided two military officers for the Technical Commission.

## THE MIDDLE EAST

### LEBANON

On January 31st, the Security Council, by unanimous consent, extended the mandate of UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) for another six months, until July 31. In his report on the mandate period, the Secretary-General outlined the on-going problems encountered by the force including its inability to extend its area of operation up to the Israel/Lebanon armistice demarcation line as envisaged in the 1978 resolution which established UNIFIL. The report also noted that the Israeli Defence Force, the South Lebanon Army and other armed groups had targeted direct hits on the force which threatened UNIFIL personnel and property. In addition, through road closures and other hindrances, the force found its movements restricted by the IDF and SLA.



## IRAN/IRAQ

On February 27th the Council, at the request of the Secretary-General, issued a consensus statement under the auspices of the President in support of his plans to hold appropriately structured direct talks between both parties under his auspices. The statement expressed full support for the Secretary-General's efforts and called upon both Iran and Iraq, to cooperate fully with him "considering that eighteen months after the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, resolution 598 (1987) <which brought about the end of the war> has not yet been fully implemented".

In the last week of March, the Secretary-General tabled his report on the operations of UNIIMOG (UN Iran/Iraq Military Observer Group) for the preceding six months in which he outlined his efforts to obtain implementation of all the elements of resolution 598 and the difficulties that he and his representative had encountered in so doing. His recommendation to extend the mandate for a further six months was unanimously approved by the Council in the adoption of a resolution on March 29.

## THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

On February 12th, the USSR requested a meeting of the Council to "consider the unlawful Israeli actions with respect to the settlement in the occupied territories" to "preclude actions which can alter the demographic structure of the occupied territories. The request arose from the widespread concern about the increasing number of Jews from the USSR emigrating to Israel, but who then settled in the occupied territories.

The matter was of particular concern to Arab members of the Council and the Arab Group, who concentrated their lobbying efforts in Moscow, Washington and other capitals to bring pressure on Israel to desist from settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and were caught off-guard and unprepared by the USSR's request. The Arab Group were, therefore, unwilling to see the matter raised in the Council before they had made other attempts to deal with the situation. In late February the issue was suspended until further notice while the USA and USSR undertook negotiations on a possible Council statement on the issue.

The issue remained dormant until May when it took a backseat to the murder of seven Palestinian workers by a deranged Israeli gunman (see below). On May 3 the debate reconvened on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied territories. Five speakers made interventions but the real activity was behind the scenes as negotiations continued on a possible text for a resolution that would be acceptable for all members. The Arab Group withheld endorsement of the draft put forward by the USA and Egypt unless they received an unequivocal assurance that the USA would vote in favour of it rather than abstain. Negotiations on the draft text remains before the Council with no indication of when it would be put to a vote.

The Council was convened on May 21 at the request of the chairman of the Arab Group, Bahrain, to "consider the crime of collective murder committed by Israel against the palestinian people". The PLO formally advised the Council that it wished its chairman, Yassir Arafat, to address the meeting. The Council agreed to give the United States twenty-four hours to consider the request and indicate whether the necessary visa would be issued. The Arab Group made it clear that the refusal on the part of the USA to issue this visa would result in a request that the Security Council convene outside of New York to consider the matter. Although the PLO never actually requested a visa for Mr. Arafat, the United States made it known that any such request would not be approved and the Council agreed on May 22 to convene in Geneva on May 25.

In Geneva, Mr. Arafat proposed five steps to deal with the situation in the occupied territories: the designation by the Secretary-General of a special and permanent envoy to work on the peace process in the Middle East; the adoption of a Security Council resolution to protect the Palestinian people; adoption of a Council resolution to stop settler immigration in the occupied territories; more involvement of the Permanent Five in the search for peace with a view to the early convening of an international peace conference; and the preparation for the imposition of Chapter VII (of the UN Charter) sanctions against Israel.

The Israeli deputy-foreign minister rejected the PLO's proposal and saw no justification for the Security Council meeting on the subject and said if the Council did not reject the idea of UN observers in the occupied territories, Israel would. He stated that the PLO was using the killings to revive the "Intifadah" which was in the process of dying out.

Canada and several other Western members of the Council indicated a readiness to consider an enhanced UN role in the search for peace, including the possibility of sending a fact finding mission.

On May 31, with debate back in New York, the Council met to consider a draft resolution calling for the immediate dispatch of a three member Council commission to "examine the situation in the occupied territories and report back to the council by June 20". Although the resolution was supported by fourteen members of the Council, it did not pass because of a veto by the United States. In its explanation of vote, the USA said that although it supported the idea of sending a special envoy of the Secretary-General to the region, it believed the proposal for a three member Council commission could not be implemented and did not focus attention on the real needs of moving the peace process forward. The PLO and the Arab Group indicated the matter would not stop there, and they raised the possibility of convening the General Assembly in an emergency session to consider the question since the Council was unable to act because of a United States veto.



## CYPRUS

On June 15th, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 649 renewing the mandate of the UN Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for a further six months. The President of the Council also underlined the Council's regret that after 25 years it has not been possible to achieve a negotiated settlement of all aspects of the Cyprus problem.

In July the Security Council met informally to discuss the announcement by Turkey of its intended withdrawal from Varoska (Famagusta) and transfer of control to Turkish-Cypriot forces. The views of most Council members were conveyed on a bilateral basis.

The countries contributing troops to UNFICYP, including Canada, met in New York on April 3rd to review the current financial situation and the excessive burden which the system of voluntary funding has placed on the troop contributors. They agreed to take a series of measures to step up pressure on the Security Council to transfer the funding of UNFICYP from a voluntary to an assessed basis. They addressed their concerns and proposals to the Council in a joint letter on May 10th, 1990. On June 11th, the Secretary General reported to the Council his own preoccupation with the growing deficit in the UNFICYP Special Account, and his support of the view that this deficit placed an unacceptable and wholly unfair financial burden on the governments concerned. On June 15th, on the occasion of the renewal of the UNFICYP mandate, Canada and the other two troop contributors on the Council, Finland and the UK, expressed their regret that it has not yet been possible to place the financing of UNFICYP on a satisfactory universal, assessed footing. After the meeting the group of troop contributors agreed to undertake individual démarches to the Foreign Ministers of other Council members.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### NICARAGUA

The Nicaraguan election, held February 25, 1990, was a watershed for both the Central American Peace Process and the United Nations' involvement in the region. This election, and the registration process and campaigning leading up to it, were closely observed by the United Nations Observation Mission for the Verification of the Elections and Nicaragua (ONUVEN) and the Organization of American States (OAS). Canada contributed personnel to both these observer teams. On a bilateral basis, material and technical assistance were provided through CIDA and Elections Canada. In addition, Canadian personnel attached to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) provided some transport and logistical support.

The judgement that the election was free and fair, coupled with the surprise election of opposition coalition leader

Violetta Chamorro, led to the first of a series of agreements between the new Nicaraguan government and the 'Contras' regarding the disbanding of the armed resistance.

This renewed national dialogue within Nicaragua added a new role for ONUCA. Anticipating events, the UN Security Council on March 27 adopted Resolution 650, expanding the ONUCA mandate to permit the addition of armed personnel for the purpose of overseeing the contra demobilization. A Venezuelan infantry battalion was added to the existing ONUCA complement and was specifically tasked with disarming the Contras and the destruction of their weapons.

On April 18, the Chamorro government and the Nicaraguan resistance agreed to call on ONUCA to supervise a ceasefire and the demobilization and disarming of the Contras. Two days later, the Security Council passed Resolution 653, again expanding the ONUCA mandate to allow it to establish and monitor a ceasefire, security zones for the Contras and a timetable for their voluntary demobilization. On May 4, the adoption of Resolution 654 renewed the original ONUCA mandate for a further six months. However, the expanded mandate relating the Contra demobilization was limited to a June 10 deadline.

Canada had been an original contributor to ONUCA, providing 45 military observers and 129 personnel attached to a squadron of eight observation helicopters. Brigadier-General Douglas was the first Canadian officer to serve as ONUCA's second-in-command, under General Quesada of Spain. For the supervision of the ceasefire and disbanding process, some helicopter support and many of the Canadian ONUCA observers were shifted to the security zones inside Nicaragua, where they stayed until the end of the demobilization process.

There were eventually three agreements signed by the Chamorro government and the Nicaraguan resistance: April 18, April 30 and May 30. At the height of this ongoing process, there were approximately 13-15,000 Contras in five security zones within the country. On May 23, the Security Council issued a statement calling on the Contras to abide by their agreements and accelerate their demobilization. The statement also called on the UN Secretary General to send a representative to the area and report back to the Security Council by June 4. The Secretary General issued two reports, the last showing that the Contras were abiding by the May 30 agreement and were demobilizing at an acceptable rate. On the basis of these reports, the Security Council on June 8 passed Resolution 656 extending the expanded ONUCA mandate to June 29.

With the successful demobilization of the Contras, this aspect of the ONUCA mandate was allowed to lapse and the Venezuelan battalion was withdrawn. The flexibility and determination shown by ONUCA personnel in the field, troop contributors, the Secretary General and the Security Council were key to this success. ONUCA



has proved itself an innovative, effective and successful example of the positive role the United Nations is able to play on the world scene.

Canada played an important role throughout this difficult and delicate peacemaking operation. In the Security Council, we maintained our support for the Central American peace process in general and for ONUCA in particular. As the largest contributor, Canada will continue to have a high profile within ONUCA.

#### EL SALVADOR

As part of the Central American peace process, the Security Council continued to monitor negotiations between the government of El Salvador and the FMLN resistance. The first round of peace talks was completed in May under the aegis of the UN Secretary General.

#### CUBA

A formal meeting of the Security Council was held on February 9 at the request of the Cuban Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The move followed an incident in international waters in the Gulf of Mexico where a U.S. Coast Guard vessel fired shots in an attempt to disable a Panamanian-registered Cuban ship which had refused to stop after permission to board was requested. Cuba described the event as "harassment and armed attack" and "an act of piracy endangering international peace and security".

The USA responded by noting that while the crew was Cuban the vessel was registered in Panama, and that country had, in accordance with international law, given permission to the Coast Guard to board and inspect the ship. When that permission was refused, the American ship had used 'all internationally -accepted alternative means to stopping the vessel' before finally firing small-calibre rounds at the engines in an attempt to disable it. Cuba and the United States were the only speakers on the issue and no draft resolution was considered or voted upon.

#### AFGHANISTAN

On January 11, the Council voted to extend the mandate of UNGOMAP (UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan) for a further two months, to March 15. Prior to this the American and Soviet governments had been negotiating between themselves over the role that would/could be played by UNGOMAP now that Soviet troops had been withdrawn. Unable to agree to a new role, the United States eventually accepted a two month extension to allow for more time to negotiate including a meeting between their foreign ministers scheduled for February.

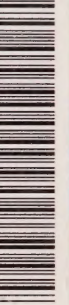
The negotiations eventually took on a quadripartite form (USA, USSR, Pakistan, Afghanistan), but still were not successful

in achieving an agreement on a future role for UNGOMAP. In anticipation of the expiry of the mandate on March 15, the Secretary-General wrote to the Council stating his intention to redeploy "a limited number of military advisors" to assist his personal representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan in carrying out his on-going responsibilities. Although the Secretary-General issued a public statement announcing this redeployment, it was not until March 29 that the Security Council responded formally, giving its agreement to this action. Canada agreed to provide one officer to this unit until May 1.





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External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada

United Nations  
Affairs Division

Direction des affaires  
des Nations Unies

Canada